

November 5, 2009
Hiroshima-Honolulu Sister City Relationship 50th Anniversary Celebration
Honolulu Day

Mayor Hannemann's Greeting

I am known as the tallest mayor in the United States, but I have never stood taller than I do tonight in front of you.

This special honorary citizen award makes me feel very proud and humble at the same time, because it comes from a city that has blessed Honolulu with so many wonderful people and has made our city what it is today.

From 1885 to the present day, we continue to see the profound influence, the positive contributions that individuals who trace their roots to Hiroshima have made to our beautiful city of Honolulu.

Furthermore, your leadership on the international stage led by your good mayor, Mayor Akiba, in your quest for a world of peace and harmony with no nuclear weapons that will threaten mankind as it has in the past.

So today as we commemorate Honolulu Day, for the past four years I've only been able to send you a message. To be here tonight with the members of the 50th Anniversary Sister City Committee from Honolulu, the rest of our delegation, and our Council Chair and our councilmen of Japanese ancestry makes me the proudest mayor in the world

I make this pledge to you tonight, that the next 50 years we will lay the groundwork for a sister city relationship that will be the envy of cities throughout the world. Hiroshima, Honolulu, *ichiban*.

So mahalo, *domo arigato gozaimasu* and thank you to all the people of Hiroshima who have made our trip a wonderful trip. I'm wondering why it took me so long to visit you. But you know what, in the words of General MacArthur, I shall return again and again and again.

May the next fifty years of this relationship between Hiroshima and Honolulu be blessed with positive contributions from both cities, may it be blessed with two cities that will lead the world in peace and in the spirit of aloha.

Domo arigato gozaimashita.